

# The sound of the drum from the Drum Tower can be heard among the rows of Army Barracks and The Rice Storehouses – an ancient atmosphere is revived at Kikuchi Castle.



## Haizuka Observatory

A hillock which is the only place to enjoy a full view of the castle. Additionally, visitors can also enjoy a 360° panoramic view including Mt. Yahougatake to the north, Mt. Kinpouzan to the south and the outer rim of Mt. Aso to the east. There is also an observation deck equipped with tables and benches. From the front side visitors can view a large rock called Fudougan (the unmovable rock).



## Choujayama Observation Square Rest Area

This rest area is located on a hillock whose name originated from the popular local Yonabaru Chouja folklore in Kikuka Town of Yamaga City. The building resembles the aristocratic-style mansions of the Nara Era, while the surroundings are equipped with an observation deck and a resting place.



## Onkosouseikan

This facility provides displays and videos on the era in which Kikuchi Castle was built along with the functions of the castle.

On the 2nd floor there is a resting area where visitors can view the entire garden.

Hours: 9:30~17:15

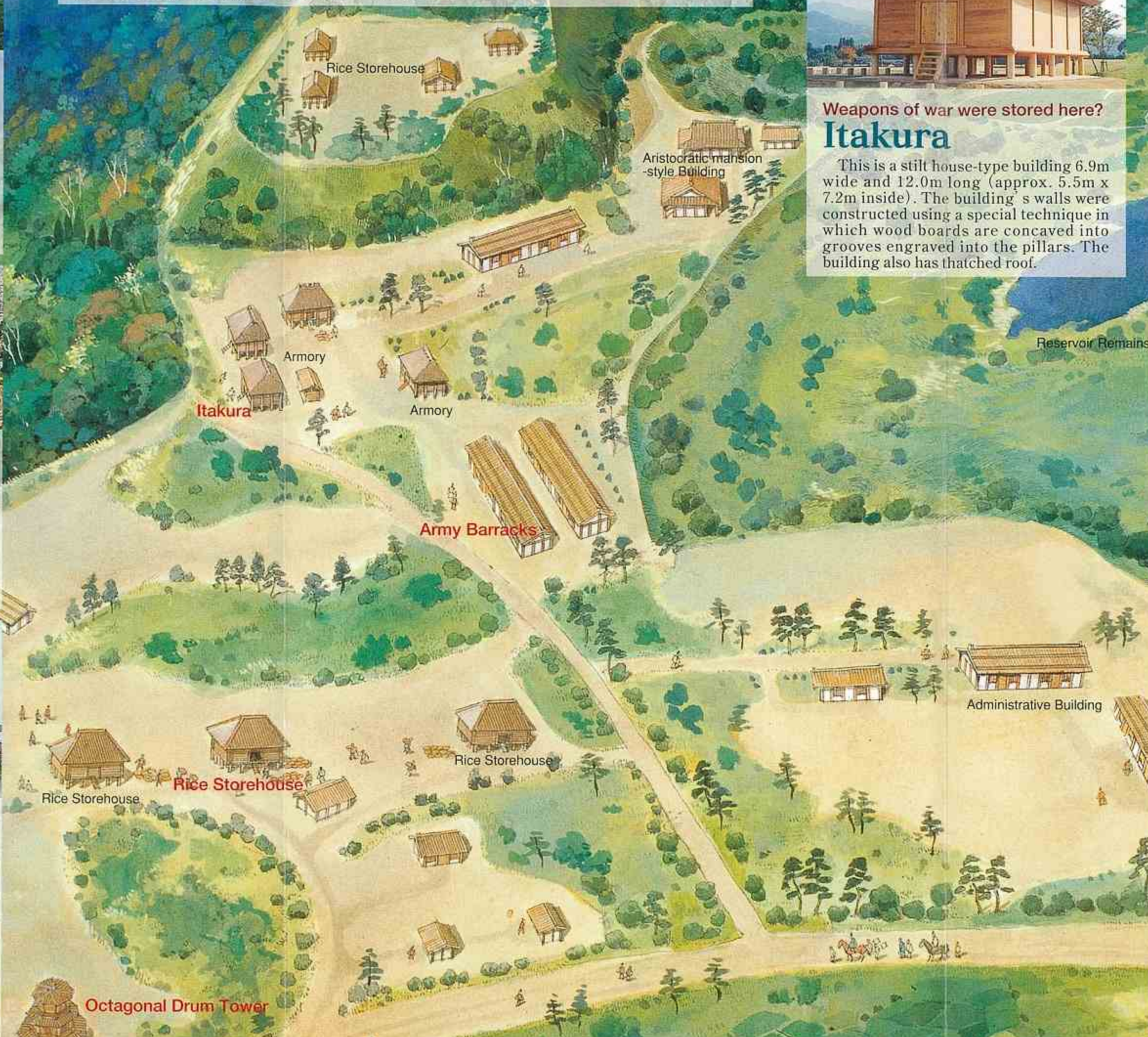
(last entry at 16:45)

Closed: Mondays (or the next day when a public holiday falls on Monday).

December 25-January 4

Entrance fee: Free

The Kikuchi Castle site grounds are centered in Yonabaru, Kikuka Town in Yamaga City, and extend widely to Horikiri in Kikuchi City. The grounds consist of the main keep area (approx. 55ha) and the outer area (approx. 65ha). Since the launch of excavation activities in 1967, remains of 72 buildings have been discovered in the area. Since 1994, these buildings have been reconstructed using materials produced in Kumamoto. In 2004, this area was designated as a national historical site.



## Weapons of war were stored here? Itakura

This is a stilt house-type building 6.9m wide and 12.0m long (approx. 5.5m x 7.2m inside). The building's walls were constructed using a special technique in which wood boards are concaved into grooves engraved into the pillars. The building also has thatched roof.



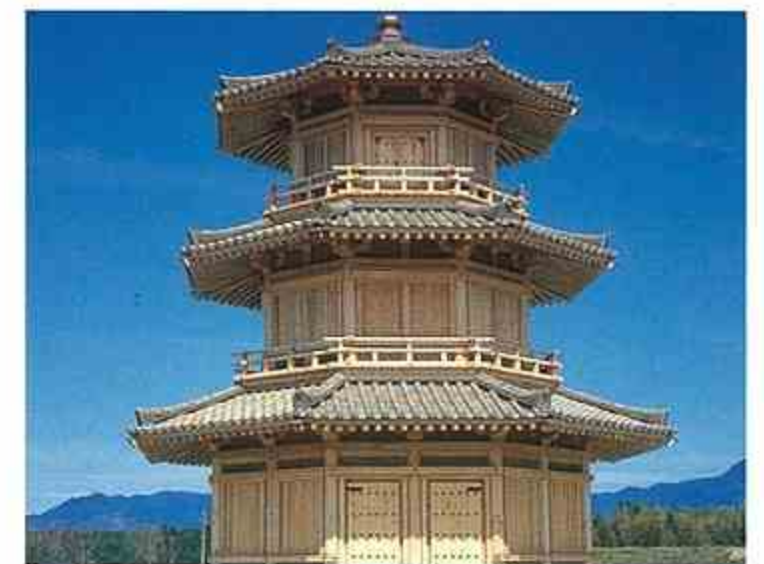
## The soldiers' place of rest Army Barracks

This building is 7.8m wide and 26.6m long (approx. 5.5m x 18.2m inside), and its walls and floor are made of earth. It also has a board-thatched roof along with windows that open upward. It is thought that one of these buildings may have housed up to 50 soldiers.



## Rice was stored here The Rice Storehouse

This is a stilt house-type building 7.2m wide and 9.6m long (approx. 5.5m x 7.2m inside) that features the *azekura* log house construction method. In this method, walls are made by placing triangularly cross-sectioned planks on top of each other, alternating vertically and horizontally. This building is also equipped with devices to protect it from mice.



## Octagonal Drum Tower

This is Japan's first excavated octagonal structure in ancient hill fort. This building has three layers and its pillars encircle the main column (90cm) three times. The building is 15.8m in height and has a tile roof which weighs 76 tons. A similar remains was discovered in Iseongsanseong Castle in the suburbs of Seoul, Korea.

Illustration of Kikuchi Castle (around year 698)

\*Buildings in red are completely reconstructed.  
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Illustrations: Makoto Itagaki